

**PRESENTATION OF CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY, NOMINEE TO BE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DE-
PARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BY HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS, A U.S.
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to introduce to the Committee Mr. Christopher A. Wray, a fellow Georgian, who is President Bush's nominee to the position of assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division.

Mr. Wray has already had a remarkable career and will bring extraordinary experience to this important position. His qualifications speak for themselves.

For the past 2 years, Mr. Wray has served as the principal associate deputy attorney general at the Department of Justice. In this capacity, he has gained invaluable experience and, at the same time, has been a tremendous asset to my friend, another Georgian, Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson.

Let me first share some of Mr. Wray's background. We will excuse him for attending Yale University for both his undergraduate studies and his legal education, but he saw the light and came back to Georgia.

After law school, he clerked for Judge J. Michael Luttig, on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and then entered private practice with the prestigious Atlanta law firm of King and Spalding.

My very good friend, and former Attorney General, and Fifth Circuit Judge Griffin Bell, who has been a partner at King and Spalding for many years, quickly identified Mr. Wray as a rising star on the firm's Special Matters Team, which was led by Judge Bell.

Mr. Wray comes before this Committee highly recommended by Judge Bell for his ability to handle complex litigation related to corporate investigations. Mr. Wray began his career of public service with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta. During his 4 years as an assistant U.S. attorney, he prosecuted cases ranging from public corruption to gun trafficking and immigration violations.

When Larry Thompson came to Washington as the deputy attorney general, he selected Mr. Wray as his top assistant. In this position, Mr. Wray has worked with all levels of DOJ to coordinate and oversee both policy and operations related to the FBI, the Criminal Division, and the U.S. Attorney's Offices.

He has specifically focused on counterterrorism initiatives since September 11, 2001, attending daily classified FBI and CIA briefings. Mr. Wray's experience and understanding of the inner workings of DOJ uniquely qualify him to take over the Criminal Division and continue antiterrorism efforts uninterrupted.

As assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division, Mr. Wray will have responsibility for the enforcement of over 900 Federal criminal statutes. He will coordinate with the 93 United States attorneys to prosecute violations of these laws, including many nationally significant cases, such as the prosecution of alleged terrorists.

In addition, he will advise the deputy attorney general, the attorney general, the White House and Congress about criminal law policy and will monitor law enforcement activities. At the age of 36, Mr. Wray has accomplished more in the legal profession than many

of us, as attorneys, do in a lifetime. His exceptional qualifications and youthful energy will invigorate the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice as it investigates and prosecutes some of the Nation's most important cases, including cases related to terrorism.

We are truly fortunate to have someone as qualified as Mr. Wray to serve as the assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division. Former Attorney General Griffin Bell, former Senator Sam Nunn, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson all unconditionally support this nominee.

Mr. Wray's decision to serve his country required that he move his wife and two young children to Washington from Atlanta and forego regularly attending Braves games, drinking sweet tea and enjoying all things Southern.

[Laughter.]

Senator CHAMBLISS. For his commitment to public service, I am very grateful. I welcome him here today. I urge the Committee to support his nomination, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator GRAHAM. He has given up a lot.

Thank you.

Senator Miller?

PRESENTATION OF CHRISTOPHER A. WRAY, NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BY HON. ZELL MILLER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Senator MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am very honored and pleased to join with my colleague, Senator Chambliss, and appear before this Committee to add my presentation of Christopher Wray, who has, you have been told, been nominated to be assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division of the Justice Department.

Once again, President Bush has made what I think is an outstanding choice. This is a young man who is wise and mature beyond his 36 years. His remarkable resume reads like one that should belong to someone much, much older. This is a young man who has the law in his blood. His father, his uncle, his grandfather, and his grandmother were all lawyers. This is a young man whose peers speak of him in glowing terms, unbelievably hardworking, straight shooter, very even keeled are the phrases they use.

This is a young man who has earned the trust and confidence of 2 of the best lawyers the State of Georgia has ever produced.

The first is Griffin Bell, who was appointed to a Federal judgeship by President John Kennedy, and who was our Nation's former Attorney General under Jimmy Carter. As Senator Chambliss has told you, Griffin Bell has watched this young man for a long time. He first spotted him while he was still a student at Yale and recruited him to the prestigious law firm of King and Spalding.

At King and Spalding, Chris was immediately handed the plum assignment of working on Griffin Bell's Special Matters Government Investigations practice. It is an assignment that goes only to the best of the best in that firm.

Judge Bell said recently of Chris, "From day one he was born to be a good lawyer."